

Peru Trip Journal

March 9-20, 2006

by Laura L. Watson with contributions and direct testimony from each team member

WBC Team Members

Jeff Guliserien
Shauna Morris
Ashton Morris
Shelton Fields
Rebekah Hunt
Angela Krenzien
Bethany Lawson
Laura Watson

Peruvian Team Members

Richard Manihuari
Claudia Manihuari
Pedro Soria

The Nenita Crew

Captain: Juanito
First Mate: Rafael
Cook: Miriam

Trip Overview

Jeff Guliserian left out Tuesday March 14 to fly to Lima and then Iquitos to prepare for the rest of the team in advance. The rest of the team met at Wedgwood and were driven to the airport by Jeff Lasiter. We left Thursday evening from DFW and flew to Miami. From Miami, we flew into Lima. We arrived in Lima on Friday morning. We spent the mid-morning at the missionary guest house in Lima until our flight that afternoon to Iquitos. We arrived in Iquitos in the early evening where we met up with Jeff. We spent the evening enjoying Iquitos and getting to know our new Peruvian team mates.

In the morning, we set sail on the Nenita down the Amazon. We traveled all day (Saturday) to Pebas. On Sunday morning, we quickly toured Pebas and then left Laura, Pedro, and Rebekah at the Casa de Loma in Pebas as the rest of the team set sail downriver to reach more villages. They stayed behind to focus on discipleship of churches previously established and new believers from previous trips. Pedro, Rebekah, and Laura's focus was on the church in Santa Lucia, the believers in Piri who needed to organize, and taking the members of Santa Lucia to Mangaul to evangelize them and make the beginnings of a church there. Each day (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday) they visited each village and had (or attempted) to have Bible studies, present the gospel, and build up local believers. In Mangaul, the pastor of Santa Lucia, Pedro, and Laura each made gospel presentations. In all, they had two in Santa Lucia, Pedro's cousin at the Pebas Port, the next door neighbor of Casa de Loma and the mother of some of the kids who became "groupies", and one woman at Mangaul come to Christ.

During this time, the rest of the team had continued down river. On Sunday they arrived in San Francisco where they were joined by Raul and his daughter Nuellia. They set sail on Monday for Condor, a village with about 20 believers. The team distributed discipleship materials and encouraged the new leadership that has come forward. Next, they left the Amazon and entered the Cochoquinas River. On the Cochoquinas, they first went to Santo Toribio de Mangrovejo, a village with about 15 believers. The team distributed discipleship materials here and encouraged the newly appointed leadership. Next, they went to a new logging village that has yet to be named. It was soon nicknamed Mesato Island because they found a dozen very drunk men with their women and children cowering in the corner. The presence

of evil was very strong, and Jeff, Richar, and Raul soon left when it was evident no one was capable of listening. This is a village that still needs to be evangelized. On Tuesday, they were back on the Amazon River visiting Santa Isabel, referred to as Tarantula City by the team. This village has about 30 believers who were given new discipleship materials and the team encouraged the emerging leadership there. They went to Remanso next, a village with about 40 believers. They discovered that natural church leadership has emerged and gave the believers more discipleship materials and instructions to start meeting together regularly.

On Wednesday morning, the team reunited in Pebas and together traveled to Santa Lucia to celebrate the Lord's Supper and finish the studies Rebekah, Pedro, and Laura had begun. Santa Lucia has about 30 believers who received more discipleship materials, evangelism tools, and instructions on baptisms and the Lord's Supper. They were also encouraged to start a women's Bible study. They have taken on Mangual and Piri as a ministry project. The church at Santa Lucia also became Wedgwood R.E.A.P.'s ministry first official recognized church plant by the International Missions Board as they fulfilled the last requirement when they established the Lord's Supper. The team set sail once again on the Amazon and traveled all day to Isana.

Thursday morning, we made the two hour jungle hike into Pampahermosa, a village of about 30 who are all believers. We gave them more discipleship materials and encouraged them to start meeting together regularly, as well as encouragement to read the Bible, pray, and spread the gospel to those they came in contact with. The team left Thursday afternoon and headed towards the Napo River.

On Friday morning, we docked in Mangua, a village with a church until their pastor abandoned them. We gave them some Bibles. They desperately need discipleship materials and church leadership. It looks to be a good ministry focus in the future for the villages along the Napo. From Mangua, we went into the jungle via Peki-Peki (a small motor boat) to the village of Central America. This village has about 15 believers, including the village leader. They received (on a previous trip) discipleship materials, but were not considered ready to receive more materials. They do not yet regularly meet, but were encouraged to do so. They need support and leadership.

The team made it back to the Nenita and set sail for the Amazon in the direction of Iquitos. We arrived in Iquitos on Saturday morning. We enjoyed the afternoon and evening as tourists and spent the night at the same hotel as before. Early Saturday morning, we flew out of Iquitos to Lima. We spent the entire day again as tourists, which included touring the Incan Ruins in Lima, playing in the Pacific Ocean, and shopping, before boarding our 12:30am flight from Lima to Miami. Quickly after landing in Miami and getting through customs and immigration, the team boarded the plane to Dallas. We arrived slightly late Monday morning at DFW. Mike Holton drove us back to the church where we unloaded, traded around souvenirs and various items we had carried on the planes for each other, and hugged goodbye.

Overall, the trip was a success. The sole goal was to glorify God, and that was accomplished. A Dios sea la gloria!

Village Statistics

Condor- Population is about 60 with about 20 believers. They are starting to meet in groups and have the second generation discipleship materials. They have experienced moderate growth. The leadership that just stepped up needs support. They are located ten minutes from San Francisco on the Amazon River.

Santo Toribio- The population is about 40 with 15 believers. This is REAP's third visit and the church is growing moderately. They have newly appointed leadership and the second generation discipleship materials. They are 45 minutes on the Cochoquinas River.

"Mesato Island"- The population is about 10 families. There is no church here, it is yet to be evangelized. Initial contact has been made and REAP is preparing for the next visit. It is an hour and a half on the Cochoquinas River.

Santa Isabel- The population is between 150-200 people with about 30 believers. They have the second generation discipleship materials and naturally emerging church leadership upon REAP's third visit to the village. They are on the Amazon River, about 45 minutes from San Francisco.

Remanso- The population is about 250 people with 40 believers. Natural church leadership has emerged by REAP's third visit. The believers are not yet meeting together regularly, but have been instructed to do so. They have received the second generation discipleship materials. They are on the Amazon River, 30 minutes from San Francisco.

Santa Lucia- The population is about 150 people with about 30 believers. They are a fully defined church with recognized leadership, practices baptism, and do the Lord's Supper. They have a church building as well where they meet regularly on Sundays and Wednesdays. They are taking on Mangaul as an evangelistic project and will help and support believers in Piri. They are on the Amazon River, 10 minutes from Pebas.

Piri- The population is about 150 people with about 20 adult believers. They have no defined leadership due to the inability to gather the believers in one place at one time. This has been a very difficult village to reach this trip. Santa Lucia has accepted the responsibility of supporting the believers in Piri. They are a 10 minute walk from Pebas.

Mangaul- The population is about 70 people with 7 believers. There are no definable church structures and the believers do not meet regularly. A few go to Pebas for church. After three visits by REAP, there is no defined leadership. Santa Lucia's church has taken Mangaul on as an evangelistic project. It is within walking distance from Pebas.

Pampahermosa- There are five families, totaling about 30 people. All adults are Christians. They have the first generation discipleship materials, but no church leadership or regularly meetings. They do not have a church building. They are a one hour walk in from Oran on the Amazon River.

Mangua-The population is 300 people with an unknown number of believers. There is a church building and some believers from neighboring communities occasionally meet together at Mangua. The Pastor left two years ago to attend Seminary and the church is in desperate need of leadership. They are open to help from outside missionaries. This would be a good location for a ministry base on the Napo River.

Central America- There are about 10 families with 70 people in all, 15 of whom are believers. They have received the first generation of discipleship materials, but do not yet meet regularly. They are in need of support and leadership in order to grow. They are located on a tributary of the Napo, 10 minutes by water or 20 minutes by foot from Mangua.

The Funny Things We Said

Ashton- If I fall in (the Amazon River), find a Mexican to save me.

Ashton- Everybody here looks the same.

Laura- I thought Claudia asked me (in Spanish) if I was tired. I answered I had slept on the plane, the cars,

the taxi, the hotel, and on the boat. Turns out she asked me if I was married.

Sheldon- It's not the bad kind of nausea. It's how I feel the Holy Spirit. Like I'm going to vomit.

Jeff- Will they poop sideways on my blanket? (referring to the team birds Gringo and Gringa)

Laura- Yes I commanded the bugs in the name of Jesus to leave the table and go outside where they are suppose to live. I did it in Spanish because they are Peruvian bugs and I wanted to make sure they understood.

Angela- Have you ever burnt your part?

Shauna- Is that a snake? Oh, it's an analog. (Anaconda + log = analog)

Jeff- (After Ashton lost a baby tooth) Don't leave that lying around or someone will make jewelry out of it and try to sell it to you.

Angela- They were holding hands- with their faces!

Rebekah- Are you going to eat that? (heard at every meal everyday)

Laura- I use words to form my sentences.

Drunk Man- Let's go... sell a canoe!

Claudia- (Practicing her English while on the hike) I bid you come.

Sheldon- I'm beginning to love the smell of DEET (bug spray).

Laura- (on the jungle hike) You know, as Christians, we should not laugh so hard when others fall down on their walk.

Bethany- Bowling for Gringos!

Angela- We've talked about Shauna enough, can we talk about me?